



1600 STEWART AVENUE • WESTBURY, NY 11590
516-832-9400 • FAX 516-832-9414

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

May 4, 1993

Donna R. Searcy
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

ET Docket 93-59

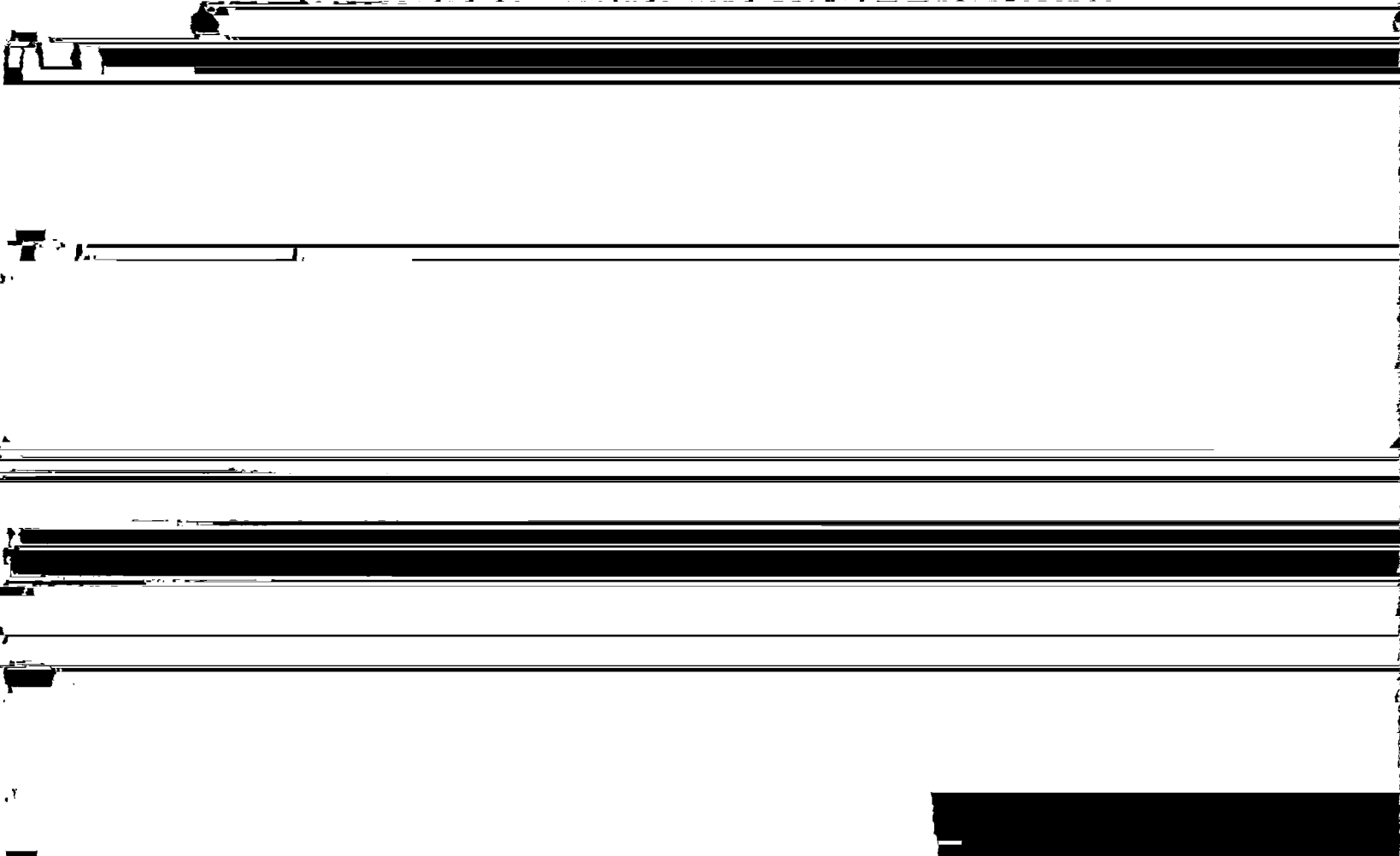
The Commission has proposed to allocate the 449 MHz band for wind profiler radar systems.

Experimental wind profilers have been operating at 404 MHz, but have interfered with certain satellite uplinks in an adjacent band. As a result of this interference, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) recommended that the wind profilers be accommodated at 449 MHz. The 449 MHz band that the Commission is proposing for wind profiler radars currently is allocated on a primary basis for Government radio-location operations. In addition, the 449 MHz band is allocated to: Amateur Radio Service, Government and non Government radio-location systems, and adjacent to Remote Broadcast Stations operating in the 450-451 MHz band. Due to the potential for interference to numerous Broadcast RPU licences, I strongly oppose the proposed allocation in the 449 MHz band.

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The NTIA conducted a recent study and concluded that a separation of 30-50km would be required to preclude co-channel interference, and the operations most likely to be affected by the proposed wind profiler allocation are repeaters that operate in the 448-450 MHz band. The 450 band is heavily used in the Long Island and Tri-State area by broadcast stations.

The NTIA also examined the potential impact of wind profilers centered at 449 MHz on the Broadcast Remote Pickup Stations. The analysis concluded that the distance



With a total population of 2,218,800, this is not a rural area. There are over 30 FM stations licensed to Long Island, with many of them also licensing Broadcast RPU frequencies for daily traffic reports, live radio broadcasts, News Department communications, Inter-City Relays, and transmitter telemetry control. To create the potential of harmful interference in this spectrum is grossly negligent.

During the summer months, this office receives over fifty requests for frequency coordination from Long Island, and the metropolitan area. In a 25 mile radius from Brookhaven Airport, the following licensed Radio Stations maintain a Broadcast RPU station:

WALK
WALK-AM
WBLI
WBAB-FM

WCTO-FM
WGSM
WRCN
WLIM

WLNG
WHFM
WWHB

The NTIA itself concluded that the use of 449 MHz for the wind profiler system would create the potential for interference on the 448-450 MHz band. The study showed that the 440-450 MHz portion of the 440-450 MHz band contained the fewest number of Government assignments, and therefore offers the best potential location for the wind profilers. The study never considered the impact on the financially strapped medium market radio broadcaster.

Many of the stations on the east end of Long Island can not afford to upgrade or change RPU equipment. This is revenue generating equipment they depend heavily on. The